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Identical letters dated 26 October 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I write to bring to your attention alarming information regarding Hezbollah's missile conversion activities in Beirut, elaborating on the information provided by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu during his address to the United Nations General Assembly on 27 September 2018.

The Prime Minister revealed no less than three secret Hezbollah precision missile conversion sites near and adjacent to Beirut's international airport. The existence of these sites alone is sufficient to constitute a violation of Security Council resolutions and international norms.

Every country with citizens landing in Beirut's international airport should be horrified by the dangers Hezbollah has posed and should condemn its heinous disregard for international aviation safety laws. Moreover, countries should demand an explanation from the Lebanese civil aviation authority, the city of Beirut and the Government of Lebanon, and a guarantee of the safety of the passengers. Simply put, every country that does not speak up against Hezbollah is endangering its citizens.

Hezbollah has intentionally placed its missile conversion sites amid mass civilian population centers in Beirut, using them as human shields for its malicious military activities. Hezbollah has positioned these missiles underneath and beside a football stadium. These reckless actions are explosive and clearly contradict Security Council resolutions and international norms.

Hezbollah's tactics on and off the football field reflect an outrageous violation and mockery of the people of Beirut. Their safety, however, is the responsibility of Tamim Sleiman, Chair of the Al-Ahed Sports Club, which is truly "Team Hezbollah". Hezbollah's illegal activities must also be acknowledged by the sponsors of the team, including MTC TOUCH, Lebanon's largest cellular network, and Fourteen, the European sports equipment company.

Given the reality on the ground, there is no way for an international or a Lebanese company to ensure that its facilities are not placed beside or above a missile conversion site or have not been exploited by Hezbollah. The Lebanese authorities must conduct the necessary due diligence to ensure that facilities and funding are not being used for Hezbollah's terrorist activities. It is the clear duty of the Lebanese Football Association, the Lebanese Ministry of Sports, and most importantly, the Government of Lebanon, to ensure the safety of football fans, players and staff.

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The last report of the Secretary-General on Security Council resolution 1559 (2004) shows, once again, that the international community has yet to address the threat posed by Hezbollah to Lebanon, and instead turns a blind eye to the Lebanese authorities, as they lack the willingness to exercise their ultimate responsibility to ensure the monopoly of the use of force. The Secretary-General has elaborated on this issue, stating that he notes "with concern the claim by Hassan Nasrallah that Hizbullah possesses precision weapons". Based on the evidence that is piling up against Hezbollah for its abuse of the civilian population and civilian infrastructure to store and manufacture weaponry, the Security Council should implement its resolutions: condemn Hezbollah, the terrorist organization, vigorously and demand its demilitarization. Every minute of inaction breathes life into Hezbollah's deadly terrorist ambitions.

Israel reserves the right to protect its citizens from the growing threat of Hezbollah and will not tolerate Hezbollah's use of Lebanon as a launching pad for attacks that threaten the lives of innocent Israelis.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Danny **Danon**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative